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**Project title: Enviroschools Sponsorship**  
**Strategy area: Environmental**

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**1. The Proposal**

Support the local implementation of the national Enviroschools programme by sponsoring facilitators for two Wellington schools at \$2000 each annually, a total cost of \$12,000 over three years. This support would facilitate environmental education for local children across a range of topics, without creating an environmental education unit in the Council.

**2. Strategic Fit**

This proposal relates directly to Strategic Priority 19: *“The Council will strengthen its partnerships with stakeholders to increase environmental awareness, community participation, and the achievement of environmental goals.”* It is particularly related to environmental awareness, with a focus on younger people.

**3. Relationship to Existing Activities**

The Council has not had a centralised environmental education programme since the late 1990s, though it has provided a limited amount of education to school groups and the general public through individual business units (for example, through school visits by the Waste Minimisation Officer).

This proposal contributes to many of the proposed Council outcomes from the draft Environmental Strategy, including *“More Actively Engaged: Wellington will pursue a collaborative, participatory approach towards environmental kaitiakitanga (guardianship), by sharing information within the community and establishing partnerships to achieve environmental goals.”*

Within the Council’s strategy tree, this proposal would complement the Council’s Environmental Grants programme under the activity of “Facilitator—Environmental Values.”

Enviroschools would not replace the environmental education that is currently given to schools and the wider community through specific programmes by business units (such as the Botanic Gardens and landfills). These existing programmes will still be necessary so that citywide coverage can be achieved and detailed messages relating to Council facilities can be promoted.

The in-depth approach of Enviroschools also complements rather than duplicates the “Take Action” environmental education programme run by Greater Wellington. Many schools use “Take Action” as a stepping-stone to becoming a fully facilitated Enviroschool.

#### 4. Proposal Costs

<i>Outline project costs per year</i>											
Project Component	Operating expenses (\$000)										
	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16
<i>Facilitate involvement of two local schools in Enviroschools</i>	<i>1.1 (already committed from waste minimisation levy)</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>4 (to be reviewed)</i>	<i>4 (to be reviewed)</i>	<i>Tba</i>	<i>Tba</i>	<i>Tba</i>	<i>Tba</i>	<i>Tba</i>		
<i>Total</i>	<i>1.1</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>Tba</i>	<i>Tba</i>	<i>Tba</i>	<i>Tba</i>	<i>Tba</i>		

Project Component	Capital expenses: N/A
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#### Cost assumptions

Through its waste minimisation levy, the Council has contributed during this financial year to some of the initial set-up costs of the programme in Wellington City. This includes approximately \$250 to provide Awards resource kits for five schools in the area, as well as approximately \$850 to co-sponsor (with Porirua City Council) the training of a new Enviroschools facilitator in the Wellington Region. The new facilitator will be available to assist with several newly participating schools from 06/07 onwards.

Beyond these initial set-up costs, the Council has not yet committed to funding any fully facilitated Enviroschools. Sponsoring a school requires \$6,000 over a three-year period, so sponsoring two schools would require \$12,000 over the triennium, or \$4,000 annually.

This amount could be expanded over time, as long as there are local schools willing to make the commitment to the programme and trained facilitators available to work with the schools. It is recommended that the \$4,000 annual funding be reviewed after 06/07 to determine whether it is appropriate and feasible to increase funding to support additional schools.

The Annual Plan is a logical source for this funding. While Enviroschools could be encouraged to apply for funding through the Council’s Environmental Grants, the prominence of this programme nationwide and the strategic importance of engaging with Wellington’s youth on environmental issues warrant this separate approach. The waste minimisation levy is not a suitable long-term funding option, as it is expected to decrease with the closure of the Northern Landfill, and the breadth and benefits of Enviroschools go beyond waste minimisation.

## **5. Project Outline**

### **Programme description**

The EnviroSchools Programme is a guided programme with two components: fully facilitated schools and awards programme schools. Fully facilitated schools commit to a three-year process of environmental learning and action. These schools are supported by local facilitators who visit the schools throughout each year of the programme, for a total of 115 hours over three years. The environmental education covers a range of topics (e.g. waste minimisation, biodiversity, water and air quality) and is integrated into all areas of school life.

Awards programme schools are not fully facilitated but receive an awards kit and choose several key areas of school life on which they base their entry in a regional annual awards competition. Bronze, silver and green/gold medals are awarded.

### **Geographic coverage and sponsorship**

EnviroSchools began in 1993 as a pilot project in Hamilton, sponsored by local government, the University of Waikato, and the Community Environmental Programme (CEP). The programme now spans across New Zealand, supported by its main office in Hamilton as well as several regional co-ordinators. EnviroSchools currently involves 280 schools, over 10% of schools nationwide, representing over 100,000 students. The programme is sponsored by over 50 partner organisations nationwide, including Ministry for the Environment's Sustainable Management Fund, the NZ Association for Environmental Education, and many district, city and regional councils.

In the Wellington Region ten schools are fully facilitated EnviroSchools and many more schools have participated in the annual awards competition. Within Wellington City, Brooklyn School is a fully facilitated EnviroSchool, and four other schools have achieved awards through the awards programmes (Houghton Valley School, Khandallah School, Clifton Terrace Model School, and Paparangi School).

Sponsorship within the region is currently provided by Porirua City Council, Hutt City Council, Masterton and Carterton District Councils, WWF-NZ (Brooklyn School) and Greater Wellington.

Wellington City Council has been encouraged to sponsor some local schools. Apparently Khandallah School and Paparangi School are both eager and ready to become fully facilitated EnviroSchools. Other schools within Wellington City are also potential candidates.

### **Milestones**

Two Wellington schools will become fully facilitated EnviroSchools in 2006/07 and will participate in the programme for three years, concluding at the end of 2008/09. Annual award events including these schools and non-fully facilitated schools in the region will take place at the end of each calendar year.

At the conclusion of this triennium (June 2009), the Council may wish to continue or expand its support for EnviroSchools through the sponsorship of additional fully facilitated schools.

## **6. Conclusion**

Enviroschools offers an opportunity for the Council to support environmental education for young Wellingtonians at a low cost without the need for a centralised in-house environmental education unit.

By sponsoring the full facilitation of two local schools for three years, the Council will be fostering environmental awareness for students across a range of topics. This learning is likely to be transferred from students to siblings and parents and to eventuate in the achievement of city and community environmental outcomes over time.

Sponsorship of Enviroschools also offers an opportunity for the Council to increase the visibility of its commitment to environmental issues, through public events such as the annual awards ceremony.

Enviroschools is a nationwide programme that has enjoyed wide-ranging support from a variety of organisations, and a partnership with our Council would have mutual benefit.

Funding amounts can be reviewed after 06/07 to determine whether it is appropriate and feasible to increase funding to support additional schools.